



FEMA

NEWS RELEASE STATE/FEDERAL DISASTER FIELD OFFICE JOINT INFORMATION CENTER



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORE THAN \$1.6 MILLION IN DISASTER AID PROVIDED TO WASHINGTON RESIDENTS

EVERETT, WA – Families and individuals who suffered damage from the October 15 – 23 severe storms continue to receive assistance from state, federal, local and voluntary agencies.

Residents of Chelan, Clallam, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Mason, Okanogan, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Thurston and Whatcom counties who suffered damage from the October storms may be eligible for federal and state assistance and are encouraged to call the toll-free number, **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)** to apply. The registration number for the speech and hearing impaired is **TTY 1-800-462-7585**.

Recovery services summary as of 7:00 a.m., Friday, Nov. 28, 2003:

- 1,064 registrations have been received through the FEMA toll free registration number **800-621-FEMA (3362)**, **TTY: 800-462-7585**.
- 96 percent of FEMA damage inspections issued have been completed.
- \$1,600,703 from the Individuals and Households Program have been disbursed to the victims.
- \$608,100 in Small Business Administration (SBA) loans have been approved for homeowners, renters and businesses.
- 145 SBA loan applications have been received.
- The Disaster Unemployment Assistance program (DUA) is available to residents living or working in the 15 counties that were declared disaster areas. The DUA may provide weekly benefit payments to those out of work due to the disaster, including self-employed persons, farm workers, farm and ranch owners, and others not covered by regular unemployment programs. The deadline to apply for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) is Dec. 18.

On March 1, 2003, FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. FEMA's continuing mission within the new department is to lead the effort to prepare the nation for all hazards and effectively manage federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates proactive mitigation activities, trains first responders, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration.

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Note to Editors: Disaster information is available on FEMA's World Wide Web at <http://www.fema.gov> or the Washington Emergency management Division at <http://emd.wa.gov>